



Application No. 10/772,559

**SPECIFICATION**

**INVENTOR(S): JAMES V. SRACKANGAST**

**TITLE: MAGNETIC HOLE FORMER**

**FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to cast members having holes formed therein. More particularly, the present invention relates to apparatuses and methods for accurately positioning and retaining a hole former or mandrel in a desired position during the casting process.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

Hole formers, knock-out molds, and mandrels are well known in concrete casting, being utilized to accurately define and position an opening within a cast concrete structure, such as a manhole casting or drainage box. Pipes can then be mortared into the openings created by the hole formers and mandrels. Typical cast members are buried underground at depths reaching 30 feet. At these depths, accurate hole placement within the cast member becomes crucial in order to avoid costly retrenching and realignment of pipes with the cast member.

Traditionally, hole formers, mandrels and knock-out molds have been positioned in a concrete casting utilizing one of two methods. When casting the concrete, the hole former, mandrel or knock-out mold (collectively referred to as "hole formers" hereinafter) is placed so that the hole former's end cap is adjacent to at least one wall of the mold form. The first method calls for the hole former to then be attached to the mold